



# National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

## General Meeting

**Whaitua o rēhia:** Pastoral House, 25 The Terrace, Wellington

**Rā:** 15th November 2022

**Tāima:** 09:00 – 17:00

## MENETI | MINUTES

**Komiti / Committee:** Matthew Stone (Kairuruku/Chair), Arnja Dale, Peter Mason, Grant McCullough, Nick Poutu, Mhairi Sutherland, Ruth Palmer, Sandra Faulkner, Craig Johnson

s9(2)(a)

**Guest:** Gwyneth Verkerk

**Matangaro / Apologies:** Ingrid Visser

**Any Other Business (Open to the Public):**

**Any Other Business (Public Excluded):**

## PART ONE – OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

### GENERAL

A Dale's estimated arrival time is 0930.

M Stone opened the meeting with a karakia.

#### O 1. Farewells

M Stone welcomed current NAWAC members and MPI staff members to the meeting and introduced himself to attendees as the new NAWAC Chairperson and thanked G Verkerk for her support.

The committee acknowledged G Verkerk's commitment to the role and efforts over the last six years, which was seconded by MPI staff.

G Verkerk thanked the committee and reflected on her experience as the NAWAC Chair.

M Stone introduced himself to the committee, noting he is a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation veterinarian, with experience working in practice, government and internationally. He is committed to the private and public sector partnering and discussed his time at the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH). He highlighted the importance of the relationship with MPI Animal Welfare Science and Animal Welfare Policy Teams, as well as NAWAC's independence.

#### O 2. Confirmation of previous minutes

The draft minutes from the 15 August 2022 meeting were circulated prior to the meeting and were taken as read.

*Moved: (P Mason / R Palmer).*

*That the draft minutes of the general meeting held on 15 August 2022 are adopted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.*

*The motion was put: carried.*

#### O 3. Status of actions arising from previous meetings

The committee reviewed the Action List and it was agreed that M Stone and the MPI Secretariat will revise this.

**Action: MPI Secretariat to work with M Stone to review and update.**

#### O 4. NAWAC correspondence

The document was circulated prior to the meeting and is taken as read.

s9(2) noted the key pieces of correspondence and provided confirmation that the Minister has not yet responded to the NAWAC letter regarding Bee Welfare.

#### O 5. MPI update and discussion

The document was circulated prior to the meeting and is taken as read.

s9(2)(a) provided apologies on behalf of s9(2)(a) and noted that public consultation for the Code of Welfare: Deer closed on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

s9(2) welcomed M Stone as NAWAC Chair and thanked G Verkerk for her service, before noting a number of staff changes, including the current advertisement for the role *Director, Animal Health and Welfare*.

P Mason raised sheep washing as an issue which will require addressing during the review of the Code of Welfare: Slaughter.

The suggestion was made to consider linking the Code of Welfare: Transport and Code of Welfare: Slaughter to ensure they are addressed appropriately.

s9(2) confirmed Verification Services (VS) and MPI Compliance can provide ongoing monitoring reports on specific issues which NAWAC are concerned about.

**Action: NAWAC requested VS ensure data on injuries and mortalities relating to sheep washing (due to slaughter) is included in the next report to NAWAC.**

## O 6. NAWAC Issues register

The document was circulated prior to the meeting and taken as read.

P Mason requested the issues register is updated to include sheep washing.

**Action: MPI Secretariat to update issues register with sheep washing.**

A Dale and G McCullough joined the meeting at 0932 and M Stone provided an update as to the discussions held from the start of the meeting to the time, they joined the meeting.

NAWAC discussed the linked review of Code of Welfare: Transport and Code of Welfare: Slaughter and agreed to begin considering points in the supply chain they would like additional data and information on.

A Dale spoke to the SPCA campaign on prolonged dog tethering and noted 6 regulatory proposals will be released for public consultation in February-March 2023. Further work will be undertaken on the matter of prolonged confinement in 2023.

G Verkerk questioned if the proposed regulation of "no tethering to a fixed point" will mean a dog cannot be tethered to a kennel and s9(2)(a) confirmed that tethering to a running-wire would be permissible, and short-term tethering will be allowed.

A Dale noted these regulations have been developed as a result of the cases of permanent tethering seen by Animal Welfare Officers to address the lower levels of offending, noting it is a primary complaint from members of the public.

The committee discussed if timeframes would be considered, and A Dale noted that more than one of the regulations could be used to achieve the appropriate outcome.

s9(2)(a) noted this would put New Zealand at the forefront of this issue, in terms of being proactive.

P Mason commended A Dale's work with MPI on the development of the proposed regulations.

## FOR DISCUSSION

## O 7. Trusted and Credible Adviser Work Programme

The document was circulated prior to the meeting and taken as read.

R Palmer highlighted that the proposed development of the two additional work programmes is to address the other two pillars (Trusted and Credible Adviser, and Transparent Decision Making) of NAWACs strategic plan, which are currently without work programmes.

NAWAC discussed the proposed work programmes, and it was noted that NAWACs guidelines were generated in the early 2000's and updated in 2018. During the 2018 update, NAWAC did not review if these guidelines were still fit for purpose or relevant.

M Stone noted NAWAC have a large workload with the number of Codes of Welfare currently being reviewed and agreed that the guidelines to be prioritised for review should be those which relate to Codes of Welfare reviews.

A Dale expressed support for the development of these work programmes, noting it will capture and allow for resourcing of the additional work undertaken by the committee.

Following discussion, guidelines 10, 11 and 12 were also suggested to be included as part of the priority review, due to their link to code of welfare related work.

s9(2) raised that MPI will be undertaking a piece of work regarding definitions within the Animal Welfare Act, this will be led by s9(2)(a) and will likely have input in the NAWAC guidelines being revised. Discussion took place on further work being undertaken internally by MPI on several processes, including the application of Te Tiriti to Acts. s9(2)(a) highlighted that the Minister has requested work begins on Maori perspectives to animal welfare.

R Palmer reminded the committee that the guidelines suggested for priority review would be for year one of the proposed three-year work programme.

*Moved: (M Stone / A Dale)*

*That NAWAC agree to the proposed development of the two work programmes (Trusted and Credible Adviser, and Transparent Decision-Making) to support the two pillars of NAWAC strategic plan and agree to prioritise the review of recommended guidelines, with the addition of guideline 10.*

*The motion was put: carried.*

## **O 8. Website Content**

The committee discussed the website sub-committee and agreed that this work would now be undertaken by the business sub-committee, in place of a standalone sub-committee.

M Stone requested NAWAC members provide suggestions for website content.

R Palmer requested that the revised guidelines are uploaded once completed.

The committee queried why the consultation documents, associated with Code of Welfare reviews are uploaded to the MPI website and why consultation documents recently released stated "MPI and NAWAC", s9(2) provided clarity that NAWAC had agreed to go out for joint consultation on the draft Code of Welfare and the associated Regulations for the pig code.

M Stone highlighted that MPI have a much larger stakeholder network, which should be considered by the committee.

R Palmer queried if the joint approach could be viewed as compromising NAWACs independence and s9(2) suggested NAWAC consider this and if they wish to address this in the review of the NAWAC (guidelines).

M Stone highlighted the importance of independence, alongside the importance of partnership with regulatory bodies in the animal welfare system, noting that MPI uploading the consultation documents is a demonstration of regulatory partnership and collaboration, and an efficient system.

## **O 9. Sub-Committee Membership**

The committee discussed and confirmed current sub-committee membership and the following changes were made:

**Rodeos:** N Waran to formally join.

**Pigs:** M Stone joined the sub-committee and C Johnson agreed to Chair.

**Dairy:** G McCullough stood down as Chair and M Stone agreed to Chair going moving forward.

**Deer:** This sub-committee will continue to proceed with 3 members.

**Sheep & Beef:** This sub-committee are happy to proceed with 4 members. M Stone will monitor the activities and progression of this code review but not formally join.

**3Es:** To be renamed the Greyhound sub-committee, as this is now its primary focus and A Dale will formally join.

s9(2)(a) provided an update on greyhounds and A Dale noted it will be discussed in cabinet in February and a decision reached.

The committee adjourned at 1045.

## **FOR APPROVAL**

### **O 10. Wildlife Guidelines**

The committee reconvened at 1100. The document was circulated prior to the meeting and taken as read.

N Poutu spoke to the memorandum and associated documents, noting key changes which had been made.

*Moved: (N Poutu / C Johnson)*

*That the revised Wildlife Guidelines are approved and can be progressed to being branded and uploaded to the NAWAC website.*

*The motion was put: carried.*

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **O 11. 2023 NAWAC Meeting Dates**

G Romaine highlighted the current timeline for the Code of Welfare: Pigs and suggested NAWAC may want to hold a separate meeting to discuss this draft code. C Johnson noted that the Code of Welfare: Pigs sub-committee is empowered to resolve the any issues with the draft code, following the NAWAC

meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2022. Any additional issues will need to be brought back to the full committee. NAWAC discussed the option of a focussed 1-hour virtual meeting being scheduled in the first week of February 2023.

NAWAC discussed and agreed to the following meeting dates for 2023:

- 21<sup>st</sup> February 2023
- 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023
- 1<sup>st</sup> August 2023
- 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2023 – Joint NAEAC meeting tentative date, as this is to be confirmed.
- 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023

NAWAC acknowledged an additional meeting will need to be held to finalise the Code of Welfare: Deer.

## **O 12. Members Reports**

C Johnson: Took part in an interview for a television programme on The Spin Off.

M Stone:

- 1) Global Burden of Animal Disease (GBADs): Noted involvement in the Steering Group of this project, which had recently participated in WOA's Global Animal Welfare Forum.
- 2) Currently working with MPI on the biosecurity preparedness for Foot and Mouth disease and a specific project on how to improve engagement with veterinarians.
- 3) Currently working on a project to develop a biosecurity programme for the pork industry in Vietnam.

N Poutu: Attended the Department of Conservation Show and hosted a stand which focussed on Predator Free 2050. Over 8,000 people attended this event.

M Sutherland: Confirmed NZ Beef and Lamb will be providing funding for a project focused on pain relief for sheep and beef, this will focus on the development of a toolkit for farmers.

A Dale: Noted that a number of new New Zealand businesses have now signed up to the Better Chicken Commitment. There are a large number of issues being discussed and worked through in regards to the National Cat Management Strategy, including the mandatory de-sexing and microchipping of cats, and the concept of house-cats. The SPCA will be informing the Minister of this work and a petition to the Select Committee has been submitted in writing and orally. A response is yet to be received.

G Verkerk: Has engaged with Marty Burns from Thoroughbred Racing on the Harness Racing Strategy.

## **PART 2: PUBLIC EXCLUDED AGENDA**

### **DRAFT RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC**

*Section 48, Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987*

*There being no further introductory items of business to discuss, it was moved (M Stone / S Faulkner):*

A: *That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:*

- C 1. Shade and Shelter – Pastoral Codes
- C 2. Sheep and Beef Code
- C 3. Rodeo Code Update
- C 4. NAWAC Work Programme for 2023

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered		Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
C 1.	Shade and Shelter – Pastoral Codes	To enable the local authority to deliberate in private on decisions or recommendations where it is required to make a recommendation by any enactment.	That the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 48(2)(a)(ii) of the OIA.
C 2.	Sheep and Beef Code	To enable the local authority to deliberate in private on decisions or recommendations where it is required to make a recommendation by any enactment.	That the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 48(2)(a)(ii) of the OIA.
C 3.	Rodeo Code Update	To enable the local authority to deliberate in private on decisions or recommendations where it is required to make a recommendation by any enactment.	That the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 48(2)(a)(ii) of the OIA.
C 4.	NAWAC Work Programme for 2023	To enable the local authority to deliberate in private on decisions or recommendations where it is required to make a recommendation by any enactment.	That the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 48(2)(a)(ii) of the OIA.

B: Also moved that s9(2)(a)

be permitted to remain at this meeting, after the public has been excluded, because of their knowledge of meeting procedure and the subject matter under discussion. This knowledge is relevant background information to assist the committee in its deliberations.

The motion was put: carried.


### C 1. Shade and Shelter – Pastoral Codes

The documents were circulated prior to the meeting and taken as read.

s9(2)(ba)(i)

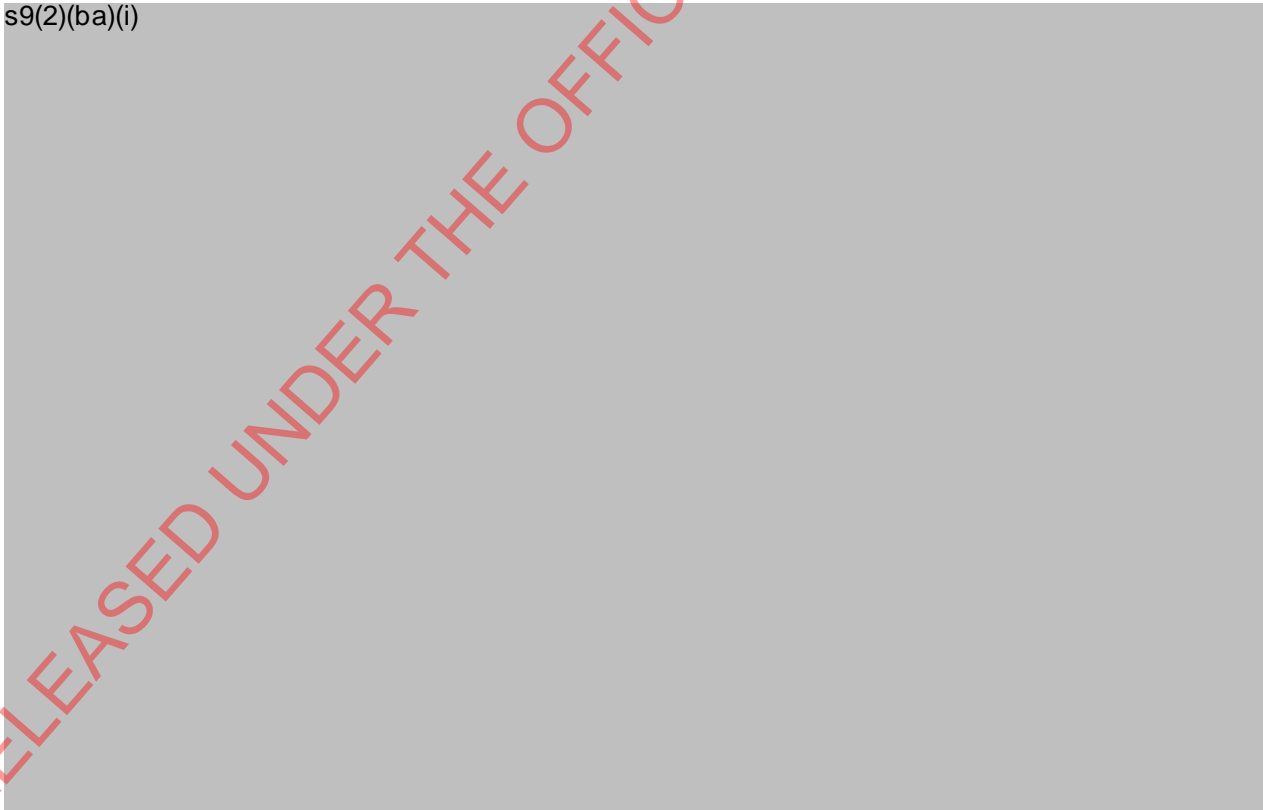
NAWAC discussed the proposal outlined in the memorandum.

s9(2)(ba)(i)



M Stone invited all committee members to comment on where they stand on the proposal outlined in the memorandum.

s9(2)(ba)(i)



RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982



s9(2)(ba)(i)



The meeting was adjourned for lunch at 1245.

**C 2. Sheep and Beef Code**

The committee reconvened at 1330.

The draft code and associated documents were circulated prior to the meeting and taken as read.

s9(2)(ba)(i)



RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

s9(2)(ba)(i)

**Feed:** A Dale noted these Minimum Standards were brought across from the Code of Welfare: Deer, to ensure consistency across pastoral codes.

**Water:** A Dale noted these Minimum Standards were brought across from the Code of Welfare: Deer, to ensure consistency across pastoral codes.

s9(2)(ba)(i)

**Farm Facilities, Equipment and Technologies:** These Minimum Standards try to align with the rate of new technology and not stifle innovation.

**Feedlots and Intensive Grazing Systems:** S Faulkner noted these are very diverse operations within the subset of the sector and have taken the lead from international standards and reverted to outcome-based standards which are achievable in the interest of the animal. NAWAC anticipate feedback to be provided on this during consultation.

The RBP “*Feedlots should not be used.*” was discussed by the committee, noting that there is not a lot of welfare research conducted on feedlots in New Zealand.

s9(2)(ba)(i)

**Managing Sheep and Beef Cattle in Off-Paddock Facilities:** s9(2)(ba)(i)

It was noted that feedback is anticipated on light and ammonia levels Minimum Standard (iii) (iv) (v). It was agreed that an introduction would be written to make clear the need / requirement for water to be provided overnight.

**Selection and Breeding:** The positive and negative potential welfare implications of genetic selection were discussed and it was agreed that NAWAC need to ensure it is positive.

s9(2)(ba)(i)

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s9(2)(ba)(i)

### C 3. Dairy Code Update

s9(2)(a) presented on the submissions received during the public consultation of the Code of Welfare: Dairy Cattle. The sub-committee have met several times since public consultation closed, to update the code based on the submissions received. The sub-committee are now seeking full committee approval for additional stakeholder engagement, prior to finalising the code.

s9(2)(ba)(i)

**Minimum Standard 2 Animal handling:** Sheep and beef code to align with this.

s9(2)(ba)(i)

s9(2)(ba)(i)

**RBP's Restraint:** NAWAC approved these changes.

s9(2)(ba)(i)

s9(2)(ba)(i)

**Minimum Standard 7 Providing for behavioural needs:** NAWAC approved the proposed amendment.

s9(2)(ba)(i)

s9(2)(ba)(i)

**Minimum Standard 10 Farm Facilities, Equipment and Technologies:** NAWAC approved these changes.

s9(2)(ba)(i)

s9(2)(ba)(i)

**Minimum Standard 12 Colostrum, hand-rearing and weaning:** NAWAC approved these changes.

s9(2)(ba)(i)

**Minimum Standard 14 Identification:** NAWAC approved these changes.

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**Minimum Standard 15 Milking:** NAWAC approved these changes.

s9(2)(ba)(i)

s9(2)(ba)(i)

**Minimum Standard 18 Caring for Recumbent Cattle:** NAWAC approved these changes.

**Minimum Standard 19 Selection and Breeding:** NAWAC approved these changes.

**Minimum Standard 20 Mating, Semen and Reproductive Technology:** NAWAC approved these changes.

**RBPs Pre-Transport Selection:** NAWAC approved these changes.

s9(2)(ba)(i)

s9(2)(ba)(i)

**Minimum Standard 24 On-Farm Humane Killing:** NAWAC approved these changes.

**Minimum Standard 25 Contingency Planning:** NAWAC approved these changes.

**RBP Contingency Planning:** NAWAC approved these changes.

Pending the changes approved by NAWAC, the revised draft would go back out to stakeholders on 12<sup>th</sup> December.

#### **C 4. NAWAC Work Programme for 2023**

To be addressed on 16<sup>th</sup> November.

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